

Appl. No. 09/767,444  
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Reply to Office action of October 9, 2003

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-13 (canceled).

14. (currently amended) A method for communicating between a hearing device for listening to first audio signals and an individual carrying said device, said method comprising the steps of:
- applying to said an output converter at least one second electrical signal representing at least one second audio signal of predetermined duration for notifying the user of a status of said hearing device; and
  - selecting the content of said second audio signal by said individual.

15. (canceled).

16. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of storing said at least one second audio signal on a user exchangeable storage element.

Claims 17-19 (canceled).

20. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of storing said at least one second audio signal in a storage unit and operationally connecting said storage unit and said hearing device by a wireless link.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step of providing said

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3 electro/mechanical output converter as a loudspeaker and  
4 wherein said generating said at least one second audio signal  
5 is generated so that it is audible by an individual remote  
6 from said hearing device.

1 22. (previously presented) The method of claim 14,  
2 wherein more than one second audio signal is provided and  
3 further wherein said selecting a second audio signal to be  
4 activated is provided in a menu-controlled manner.

1 23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22,  
2 wherein the step of performing said selecting is done via a  
3 remote communication unit for said hearing device.

1 24. (previously presented) The method of claim 23,  
2 further comprising the step of establishing a wireless  
3 communication between said communication unit and said hearing  
4 device.

1 25. (previously presented) The method of claim 23,  
2 wherein the step of performing said selecting is done in a  
3 speech controlled manner.

1 26. (currently amended) A hearing device system with at  
2 least one hearing device, said hearing device comprising:  
3 a signal processing unit with an output being  
4 operationally connected to an input of an  
5 electrical/mechanical converter; and  
6 a generator unit the output of which is also  
7 operationally connected to said input of said  
8 converter, said generator unit including a user  
9 exchangeable storage with at least one audio signal,  
10 the content thereof being user selectable audio  
11 signal for signifying a status of the system.

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1 27. (currently amended) A hearing device system  
2 comprising:  
3 at least one hearing device, said hearing device  
4 including:  
5 an electrical/mechanical converter; and  
6 a signal processing unit with an output being  
7 operationally connected to an input of said  
8 electrical/mechanical converter; [[,]] and  
9 a generator unit the output of which is operationally  
10 connected to the input of said electrical/  
11 mechanical converter, said generator unit including  
12 a user writable read/write storage unit with signals  
13 representing audio signals for storing user  
14 selectable signals according to user defined audio  
15 signal sequences of predetermined extent to be  
16 output by said generator unit for notifying a user  
17 of a status of the system.

1 Claims 28-31. (canceled).

1 32. (previously presented) The system of claim 27,  
2 wherein a writing input of said read/write storage is  
3 operationally connected or is operationally connectable to a  
4 signal source of audio signals.

1 33. (previously presented) The system of claim 32,  
2 wherein said signal source is an audio playback unit or is a  
3 unit with internet connection.

1 34. (previously presented) The system of claim 27,  
2 further comprising a display unit for at least one of a visual  
3 or speech controlled menu, said display unit being  
4 operationally connected or connectable to a signal generator

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5 generating control signals for said device to said generator  
6 unit.

1 35. (previously presented) The system of claim 34,  
2 wherein said display unit is for speech control and has an  
3 output which is operationally connected to said input of said  
4 electrical/mechanical converter of said hearing device.

1 36 (currently amended): A method of acknowledging to an  
2 individual carrying a hearing device, said hearing device  
3 having:  
4 an acoustical/electrical input converter unit having an  
5 output;  
6 a signal processing unit having an input and an output;  
7 and  
8 an electrical/mechanical output converter arrangement  
9 having an input, wherein  
10 said output of said input converter is operationally  
11 connected to said input of said signal processing  
12 unit, the output thereof being operationally  
13 connected to said input of said output converter  
14 arrangement, said method comprising the steps of:  
15 generating an acknowledgement control signal in said  
16 hearing device whenever a predetermined status of  
17 said hearing device is reached; and  
18 initiating an acknowledgement audio signal according to  
19 said acknowledgement control signal to be applied to  
20 said input of said output converter, wherein  
21 said acknowledgement audio signal is made selectable by  
22 the individual.

1 37 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,  
2 wherein said acknowledgement audio signal is stored on a user  
3 exchangeable storage.

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1 38 (previously presented): The method of claim 37,  
2 wherein said user-exchangeable storage is applied to said  
3 hearing device.

1 39 (previously presented): The method of claim 37,  
2 wherein said user-exchangeable storage is a read-only storage.

1 40 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,  
2 wherein said hearing device further has a storage unit for  
3 storing said audio signal.

1 41 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,  
2 further comprising a storage unit for said audio signals  
3 remote from said hearing device and establishing at least one  
4 of a wireless or of a wired communication between said hearing  
5 device and said storage unit.

1 42 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,  
2 wherein more than one of said audio signals are provided and  
3 wherein said user selectability comprises selecting which of  
4 said audio signals is initiated by said acknowledgement  
5 control signal.

1 43 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,  
2 wherein said audio signal is applied to said output converter  
3 of said hearing device so as to be audible even as said  
4 hearing device is not applied to an individual.

1 44 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,  
2 wherein pre-selection of said audio signal is performed in a  
3 menu-controlled manner.

1 45 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,

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- 2 further comprising the step of pre-selecting said audio signal  
3 via a communication unit remote from said hearing device.

- 1 46 (previously presented): The method of claim 45,  
2 wherein there is established a wireless communication between  
3 said communication unit and said hearing device.

- 1 47 (previously presented): The method of claim 45,  
2 wherein said pre-selection of said audio signal is performed  
3 at said communication unit in a menu-controlled manner by  
4 means of at least one of visual and speech menu indications.

- 1 48 (previously presented): The method of claim 47,  
2 wherein said menu is communicated to said individual via said  
3 hearing device as a menu indication by voice.

- 1 49 (previously presented): The method of claim 36,  
2 wherein said pre-selection of said audio signal is performed  
3 in a speech-controlled manner.

- 1 50 (previously presented): A system comprising at least  
2 one hearing device, said hearing device including:  
3 an electrical/mechanical input converter arrangement  
4 having an output;  
5 a signal processing unit having an input and an output;  
6 an electrical/mechanical output converter arrangement  
7 having an input; and  
8 a generator unit having:  
9 an audio signal storage unit, the content thereof  
10 being selectable by a user; and  
11 an output operationally connected to said input of  
12 said output converter arrangement;

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13 wherein said output of said input converter arrangement  
14 is operationally connected to said input of said  
15 signal processing unit, and wherein  
16 said output of said signal processing unit is  
17 operationally connected to one of said input and  
18 another input of said output converter arrangement,  
19 and further wherein  
20 said hearing device generates at least one  
21 acknowledgement control signal when a predetermined  
22 status of said hearing device is achieved, and still  
23 further wherein  
24 said generator unit applies said audio signal to said  
25 output converter arrangement when initiated by said  
26 acknowledgement control signal of said hearing  
27 device.

1 51 (previously presented): The system of claim 50, said  
2 hearing device further comprising a manually operated  
3 switching member, wherein said acknowledgement control signal  
4 is initiated by said switching member.

1 52 (previously presented): The system of claim 50, said  
2 generator unit further including an addressing input for said  
3 audio signal, said acknowledgement control signal addressing  
4 via said addressing input said audio signal.

1 53 (previously presented): The system of claim 52,  
2 further comprising a remote control unit for said hearing  
3 device, wherein said acknowledgement control signal is  
4 initiated by a control action for said hearing device by said  
5 remote control unit.

1 54 (previously presented): The system of claim 53,  
2 wherein said remote control unit is operationally connected to

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3 said hearing device via at least one of a wired and of a  
4 wireless communication link.

1 55 (previously presented): The system of claim 50,  
2 wherein said generator is integrated in said hearing device.

1 56 (previously presented): The system of claim 50,  
2 wherein said generator unit is remote from said hearing device  
3 and there is provided a wired and/or wireless communication  
4 link between said hearing device and said generator unit.

1 57 (previously presented): The system of claim 56,  
2 wherein said generator unit is connectable to the internet.

1 58 (previously presented): The system of claim 50,  
2 further comprising a display unit for displaying at least one  
3 of a visually and of a speech controlled menu, said display  
4 unit being operationally connected or connectable to said  
5 generator unit and to said hearing device for establishing  
6 which of more than one of said audio signals shall be  
7 initiated by said acknowledgement control signal and/or which  
8 of more than one acknowledgement control signals shall  
9 initiate said audio signal.

1 59 (previously presented): The system of claim 58,  
2 wherein said display unit has an output for audio menu  
3 information signals, said output being operationally connected  
4 to said output converter of said hearing device.